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Letter dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to present to you herewith the fourth report on the work of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF), covering the period from 1 to 31 October 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Monthly report on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for the period from 1 to 31 October 2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Security in Kabul and its surrounding areas continued to strengthen in the reporting period, leading to the lifting of the night curfew for the first time in 23 years. ISAF maintains a discreet and substantial presence in the city and enjoys the full confidence and cooperation of the Afghan authorities. The local community strongly welcomes ISAF's presence and its contribution to the establishment of a safe and peaceful environment. Despite these positive trends, there is some concern about the plight of refugees, who have returned to Kabul in recent times, and vulnerable families, especially in view of the approaching winter conditions. Furthermore, most police and army personnel have not been paid for many months, fuelling suspicions of their involvement in ordinary crime. However, it is encouraging to note that the Afghan authorities have been able to reach conceptual agreement on the establishment of a national army. The central government has also made some progress on extending its authority to the provinces. The international community should help consolidate the current stability by providing Afghanistan with the requisite support through the central government.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Security in Kabul and its surrounding areas continued to strengthen in October. The situation was calm and peaceful, almost without any notable incident. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has continued to discharge its responsibilities as planned and sustained its enhanced security measures, albeit in a more discreet manner. Security coordination and intelligence-sharing both among the relevant Afghan authorities themselves and between the security entities and ISAF have noticeably improved. The better security conditions have made it possible to lift, as of 3 November, the night curfew for the first time in 23 years. This is for a trial period during the Ramadan and will be extended if the positive trends continue. The lifting of the curfew has substantially boosted morale of Kabul citizens and their confidence in the ability of the security entities. ISAF has nevertheless increased its night patrols, especially during those hours when the curfew had previously been applied. The ISAF Commander, Major General Hilmi Akin ZOREL, has continued to take up the issue of the equipment requirements of the local police and the other law-enforcement agencies in Kabul with both the senior Afghan leadership and the

international community. The Afghan government has been expending great effort toward forging a broad national consensus on the fundamental issues facing Afghanistan, including the establishment of a national army and the extension of the central government's authority to the regions. It is essential that the international community provides the central government with substantial political, financial and technical support, so as to prevent Afghanistan from succumbing once again to conflict and extremism.

2. ISAF ACTIVITIES:

a. General;

(1) Lithuania has joined ISAF as of 16 October, when for medical personnel took up posts in the ISAF field hospital. As of 31 October, ISAF is composed of 4823 personnel from 22 countries.

(2) Enhanced ISAF operations continued as planned in October, albeit in a more discreet manner. ISAF's visibility and presence in the city has been maintained. An average of 45 security patrols a day were conducted on a 24-hour basis, mostly on foot. Approximately, two-thirds of these patrols were conducted jointly with the Afghan police. Many random check-points were established. ISAF also provided additional security, including checks for explosive ordnance, prior to and during international conferences, fairs and visits by senior statesmen.

(3) ISAF found and confiscated a significant amount of weapons and ammunition in October, including rockets, unexploded ordnance and air defence systems, indicating that terrorist elements are experiencing increasing difficulties in their movements and planning. As of 24 October, ISAF explosive ordnance disposal teams destroyed 107.000 rounds of explosives, including anti-tank weapons, unguided missiles, mines and anti-aircraft weapons.

(4) ISAF has continued to implement enhanced security measures in the city and raised its presence and visibility especially in the Bagrami district, where a number of incidents had occurred in the past. A joint command centre has been established and operationalized in the Bagrami district, through the cooperation of ISAF and the Afghan 5th Division. In sharp contrast to previous times, no serious incidents have since occurred in Bagrami. An ISAF task force has been deployed on Shina Hill overlooking the city. ISAF personnel have continued to liaise regularly

with the observation posts set up bay the Kabul Garrison on the edge of our area of responsibility.

(5) ISAF continues to enjoy the full confidence of the senior Afghan leadership. The ISAF commanders work closely with the senior Afghan leaders, on the basis of the full congruity between the objectives of ISAF and of the Afghan authorities. The ISAF leadership also mairttains close contact with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General.

(6) The Joint Coordinating Body (JCB), set up in accordance with the Military Technical Agreement, met twice during the reporting period. The first meeting took place on 10 October 2002 at the Ministry of the Interior. The meeting was conducted in the usual cooperative atmosphere, on the basis of an agenda prepared by ISAF. Ambassador Brahimi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, requested ISAF to prepare a summary record of each meeting. ISAF has assumed this responsibility; the summary record of each JCB meeting is prepared by ISAF and coordinated with the office of the Special Representative before being distributed to the other participants. The meeting deliberated on the general security situation in Kabul, wherein the participants agreed that security was improving. The second meeting of the JCB was held on 24 October 2002, at the Kabul Garrison. UNAMA provided a presentation on the winterization programme for returnees and vulnerable families. The participants noted that the preparations by the Operational Winter Task Force to help returnees and vulnerable families cope with the approaching winter conditions were underway, that stocks of food and shelter material mostly complete and that no major disasters are expected unless the winter would be severe. The meeting also heard a report on the activities of the Kabul Garrison to provide for security and law and order in Kabul, with ISAF's help.

(7) In an effort to ensure adequate Ministerial protection, ISAF has so far provided close protection training for a total of 667 Afghan bodyguards. An additional group of 100 bodyguards from the Ministry of the Interior will shortly begin training. Furthermore, ISAF experts have visited 20 Ministerial buildings in order to assess their security arrangements. ISAF has conveyed its recommendations for security enhancements to the Afghan authorities in writing.

(8) Turkish instructors continue to provide the 1st Battalion Afghan National Guard with advanced training. The training programme began in September and is expected to conclude at the end of November. The

ISAF Commander inspected the training activities on 3 October, together with Lieutenant-General Bismillah Khan, Commander of the Kabul Garrison.

(9) ISAF continues to address the equipment requirements of the Ministry of the Interior, the Kabul police and the security personnel serving at the entry-exit points in the city. Most local police stations visited by ISAF personnel have been found to be critically under-equipped. The ISAF leadership has brought the matter to the attention of the Afghan authorities and called for the acquisition of weapons, wireless sets and cars for the police force, as well as detectors to help with the search for explosives. Turkey is seeking to provide the Ministry of the Interior with weapons and ammunition, while the United Kingdom is planning to donate 100.000 US Dollars to provide special equipment for use at the entry-exit points.

(10) ISAF has endeavoured to enhance coordination and intelligence-sharing among the relevant Afghan security entities, especially the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, the National Directorate for Security, the local police and the Kabul Garrison. The Committee for Intelligence Coordination, which was established with this aim in mind, has been holding weekly meetings.

(11) ISAF continues to enjoy the full trust and respect of the people of Kabul, who appreciate the nature of ISAF's responsibilities and its contribution to security and stability. The ISAF commanders have issued strict orders to all ISAF personnel to treat the local citizens with courtesy at all times and to respect local customs and values, especially during the month of Ramadan. The ISAF leadership remains equi-distant to all the ethnic groups that make up the people of Afghanistan.

(12) ISAF sustains a broad information campaign relating to ISAF activities, government work and the presence of the international community in Kabul, by making use of public announcements, radio and television advertisements, posters and the ISAF newspaper.

b. Security in Kabul and its surrounding areas:

(1) Kabul was calm and peaceful in October. Crime rates remained low. A sense of normality has returned to the city, with an active commercial life. Tired of violence and factional politics, ordinary citizens are seeking to improve their standards of living. The lifting of the night

curfew, for the first time in 23 years, has greatly boosted optimism in the local community.

(2) ISAF explosive ordnance experts carried out a controlled explosion on the night of 23 October, in order to destroy a suspiciously located bag believed to contain an improvised explosive device. ISAF experts deal with explosive material on location, due to the potential risk to ordnance experts of removing them.

(3) Nevertheless, despite the calm atmosphere in the city, a potential terrorist threat remains, as corroborated by the large amounts of weapons and ammunition found and confiscated by ISAF. Vigilance will therefore be maintained, including vigourous patrolling, in order to prevent a return to conflict and caos.

c. Assistance projects towards the local community:

ISAF continued to run an extensive CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) programme in October so as to provide assistance to the local community. This assistance was channeled through carefully selected quick-impact projects on the basis of local requirements and humanitarian considerations, respect for cultural and religious values and the principle of equi-distance to all the ethnic groups making up the people of Afghanistan. Assistance efforts focus on the field of education and public health and include the renovation of educational and health establishments (schools, kindergartens, orphanages, hospitals and clinics), supply of teaching materials, provision of equipment and engineering expertise to help with the water supply and sanitation, provision of fire-fighting training and equipment, air traffic control and meteorological training, assistance with the water, electricity, library and reproduction facilities of the two universities in Kabul and supply of medical aid and distribution of baby food. The renovation and refurbishment the Yakatoot High School and the restoration of the historical "Shahe du Shamshera" mosque, which re-opened for prayers on 31 October, are particular examples of ISAF's CIMIC work.

As the local community continues to convey numerous requests for assistance, ISAF endeavours to utilize its own limited resources to the full and seeks financial support from other sources. To date, 154 projects have been completed by ISAF, 45 current projects are underway and a further another 78 projects are being staffed and planned. Most of these projects are funded from the national sources of the ISAF countries while the EU provides funding for the efforts to improve the water supply, and reconstruction of schools and kindergartens in Kabul. Contributions by UN member countries to the trust fund established

pursuant to the UN Security Council resolution 1386 would help finance ISAF's joint expenses including CIMIC project.

3. SPECIFIC CHALLENGES:

The following specific issues, falling outside of ISAF's core mission, continue to have implications for security and stability in Kabul.

a. The Afghan authorities have reached conceptual agreement on the direction of defense reform and the establishment and training of an Afghan National Army. The Afghan authorities have prepared a detailed conceptual document setting out parameters for defense reform and a final government decree is expected to be issued shortly. The international community should do all it can to support the implementation of this conceptual agreement, including the difficult process of demobilizing former combatants and of integrating parts of the personal armed forces of the regional leaders into a coherent and efficient army.

b. International aid is still limited, in contrast to the repeated appeals by the Afghan authorities and the pledges made at the Tokyo Conference. The lack of adequate financial assistance continues to hamper the commendable efforts of the Afghan government, which has dispatched official delegations to various provinces and removed several public and military officials from their posts for misuse of power or improper conduct. Mobile police teams were deployed on main inter-city routes in order to ensure law and order. The government has also managed to persuade several provincial leaders to hand custom revenues over to the central government. Therefore, there is a reasonable cause for optimism, which should be recognized and encouraged by the international community, especially with respect to payments of salaries for police and army personnel.

c. There is some concern for the plight of approximately 600.000 refugees who have returned to Kabul and vulnerable families, particularly in view of the approaching winter conditions. In all, more than 1.8 million people are estimated to have returned to the country since March. A failure to provide adequate assistance for those individuals and families might have a nefative impact upon the security circumstances in Kabul. ISAF is consulting the UNHCR officials for the provision of security for the winterization program designed to assist people through the winter months.

4. CONCLUSION:

ISAF continued to provide substantial assistance, in the reporting period, to the Afghan authorities in maintaining security and stability in Kabul and its surrounding areas. The situation in the city continues to be calm and peaceful, as corroborated by the lifting of the night curfew in he city for the first time in 23 years. In addition to its direct contribution to the security, ISAF has also been assisting the Afghan authorities to remedy certain shortfalls in the security system. However, substantial international assistance should be mobilized without further delay in order to consolidate the current stability.

The Turkish term as the ISAF lead nation is scheduled to end on 20 December 2002, therefore, Turkey wishes to ensure timely and smooth transfer of command.